

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7696

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0855

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: ON DISGUISED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES: "NEVER BE
SOFTHEARTED"

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AN AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE AUTHORED
JOINTLY BY "COMMENTATORS" OF THE PRC'S MAJOR NATIONAL
PUBLICATIONS DELIVERS THE OFFICIAL VERDICT ON THE
GANG OF FOUR BUT HINTS THAT OTHER "DISGUISED COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARIES" MAY STILL OCCUPY HIGH POSITIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE APRIL 27 JOINT ARTICLE ("A SINISTER GANG OF
NEW AND OLD-TIME COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES") BY COMMEN-
TATORS OF PEOPLE'S DAILY, RED FLAG, AND LIBERATION
ARMY DAILY SEEMS AN AWKWARD HYBRID CREATURE: ON THE
ONE HAND LOOKING BACKWARD TO SET OUT THE PARTY'S
DEFINITIVE POST-INVESTIGATION VERDICT ON EACH
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MEMBER OF THE GANG OF FOUR AND ON THE OTHER LOOKING
FORWARD TO A COMING PARTY RECTIFICATION DRIVE.

3. BUT THE NOVEL PART OF THE PIECE CONCERNS THE
PRESENT; THERE IS MORE THAN A HINT OF MENACE IN THE
ARTICLE'S DISCUSSION OF "DISGUISED COUNTERREVOLU-
TIONARIES." NOTING THAT A "VERY SMALL NUMBEER" OF

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES "WHOM WE DID NOT RECOGNIZE FOR A LONG TIME" HAD CLEVERLY DISGUISED THEMSELVES AND "HID DEEPLY IN OUR RANKS" DURING PAST "PURIFICATIONS" OF THE PARTY, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES "THIS WAS SO IN THE PAST AND WILL BE SO IN THE FUTURE... CLASS STRUGGLE WILL REMAIN LONG, TORTUOUS, AND COMPLICATED".

4. PLAINLY, THE VARIOUS COMMENTATORS ARE SUGGESTING THAT THERE ARE STILL ON THE SCENE A NUMBER OF "DISGUISED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES." SOME OF THESE, TO BE SURE, ARE AT LOWER LEVELS; THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT COMING MONTHS WILL BE OCCUPIED WITH "GOING INTO ONE BY ONE EVERY PERSON AND AFFAIR INVOLVED IN THE GANG'S CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITIES". IN THIS NATION-WIDE PARTY RECTIFICATION, PRESUMABLY A PREREQUISITE FOR ANY NATIONAL-LEVEL PARTY OR STATE CONGRESS, THE WATCHWORD WILL BE "THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE...NEVER BE SOFT-HEARTED, AND RESOLUTELY ELIMINATE THE GANG OF FOUR'S POISONOUS INFLUENCE POLITICALLY, IDEOLOGICALLY, AND ORGANIZATIONALLY."

5. BUT THERE IS A TACIT REMINDER THAT SOME OF THE "DISGUISED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES" ARE AT SENIOR LEVELS AS WELL. THIS COMES THROUGH BY ANALOGY: THE GANG OF FOUR ARE PORTRAYED AS THE "DISGUISED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES" OF THE STRUGGLE WAGED AGAINST LIN PIAO AND CHEN PO-TA. SINCE "THIS WAS SO IN THE PAST AND WILL BE SO IN THE FUTURE," IT
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FOLLOWS THAT THE MORE "CLEVERLY DISGUISED" OF THE GANG'S FOLLOWERS ARE STILL ON THE SCENE.

6. PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, HUA KUO-FENG, AROUND WHOM A MINICULT HAS ARISEN IN RECENT ARTICLES, IS MENTIONED IN THE LONG ARTICLE ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, IN CLOSING PARAGRAPH'S RITUAL ADMONITION TO CARRY ON SPECIFIED TASKS "UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE WISE LEADER CHAIRMAN HUA..."
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